Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Project

234. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran, India and Pakistan have Secretary level meeting regarding the 7 billion dollar Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Project; and

(b) if so, the details of decision taken in the meeting and progress made on the materialization of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The 4th Tripartite Joint Working Group meeting of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project between the three countries was held in Tehran, Iran on January 24-25, 2007. During the meeting, discussions were held on the report submitted by the consultant on the gas price. The gas price at Iran-Pakistan border was agreed between Iran and Pakistan side, subject to approval from the respective Governments. The Indian side agreed to respond within a period of four weeks.

Subsequently, an Indian delegation participated in the bilateral meeting with Pakistan on February 22-23, 2007 to discuss the issues relating to transit of IPI Pipeline through Pakistan. Iran attended the meeting as an Observer. The issues pertaining to transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of gas through Pakistan were discussed.

"Atithi Devo Bhavah' awareness campaign in Uttarakhand

235. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered to start 'Atithi Devo Bhavah' awareness campaign in Uttarakhand which is the highest tourism destination from the religious point of view;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) In the current financial year, a countrywide Awareness Campaign for sensitising the Public against Garbage and Graffiti at monuments has

been launched under the title "Atithi Devo Bhavah" for preservation and protection of heritage monuments and tourist sites in the country.

Shortage of hotel accommodation for tourists

236. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a surge of business tourists from overseas in India;

(b) if so, the details of various categories of tourists, including for medical treatment, visiting India during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that currently there are not adequate hotel rooms of star category to cater to such tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action propose to be taken by Government to bridge the gap;

(e) whether private players will be encouraged to build star category hotels to fill the shortage of hotel accommodations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated number of foreign tourists who visited India during 2003, 2004 & 2005 are as under:—

(Figures in Lakh)

	2003	2004	2005
Business	1.63	0.79	1.10
Conference	0.11	0.07	0.08
Education & Employment	0.14	0.14	0.16
Tourism & Others	25.38	33.57	37.85
Total :	27.26	34.57	39.19

Information on the number of tourists visiting India for medical treatment is not available.